

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-8 and 12-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1, 9, and 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A vibrating knife, comprising:
an excision member which is adapted to be brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision by ultrasonic vibrations so as to excise the target,

wherein said excision member comprises a first edge formed by sides having hydrophobic surfaces, and a second edge formed by sides having hydrophilic surfaces and arranged at a position opposite to the first edge,

wherein when the target is hydrophobic, said first edge is adapted to be used as a leading end edge located on a forward side in the traveling direction to excise the target, and said second edge is adapted to be used as a trailing end edge located on a backward side in the traveling direction to separate the excised target from said excision member, and

wherein when the target is hydrophilic, said second edge is adapted to be used as the leading end edge, and said first edge is adapted to be used as the trailing end edge.

2. (Previously Presented) The knife according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic surfaces and the hydrophilic surfaces are respectively formed by coating with a hydrophobic film and a hydrophilic film.

Claims 3-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An excision apparatus comprising:
a vibrating knife that includes an excision member which is adapted to be brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision by ultrasonic vibrations so as to excise the target,
wherein said excision member comprises a first edge formed by sides having hydrophobic surfaces, and a second edge formed by sides having hydrophilic surfaces and arranged at a position opposite to the first edge,
wherein when the target is hydrophobic, said first edge is adapted to be used as a leading end edge located on a forward side in the traveling direction to excise the target, and said second edge is adapted to be used as a trailing end edge located on a backward side in the traveling direction to separate the excised target from said excision member, and
wherein when the target is hydrophilic, said second edge is adapted to be used as the leading end edge, and said first edge is adapted to be used as the trailing end edge;
a vibrating knife defined in claim 1;
a knife driving portion which vibrates said vibrating knife; and

a driving control portion which controls said knife driving portion to control a vibration mode of said vibrating knife.

10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said driving control portion controls the vibration mode of said vibrating knife to generate elliptic vibration whose ellipsoid coincides with the traveling direction in excision of said vibrating knife.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An excision apparatus comprising:
a vibrating knife includes an excision member which is adapted to be brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision by ultrasonic vibrations so as to excise the target,
wherein said excision member comprises a first edge formed by sides having hydrophobic surfaces, and a second edge formed by sides having hydrophilic surfaces and arranged at a position opposite to the first edge,
wherein when the target is hydrophobic, said first edge is adapted to be used as a leading end edge located on a forward side in the traveling direction to excise the target, and said second edge is adapted to be used as a trailing end edge located on a backward side in the traveling direction to separate the excised target from said excision member, and
wherein when the target is hydrophilic, said second edge is adapted to be used as the leading end edge, and said first edge is adapted to be used as the trailing end edge;
~~a vibrating knife defined in claim 1;~~

a knife driving portion which vibrates said vibrating knife; and
a temperature control portion which controls generation of heat ~~by said~~
~~heater of~~ in said vibrating knife.

Claims 12 - 17. (Cancelled).